



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GENERAL NOTES

Bellingham, Wn. -- The first Swallows of the season to arrive at Bellingham, (Violet-green, no doubt), were reported to the writer by a friend on March 16th. This was at a time when there was still snow on the ground, left by the cold weather of the preceding three or four days. With one exception this is the only time the ground has been whitened during the past winter. March 20th I saw another troop of about 15 Violet-green Swallows migrating leisurely northward. Two more were seen on the 22nd. Up to the 27th, no others have been noted. They seem to be moving northward this spring in detached groups.

Behavior of an Eagle -- Ordinarily Eagles are quite wary and do not permit the near approach of man, but apparently they will do so when there is sufficient visible assurance that the human is occupied with something that is likely to keep his attention diverted from the Eagle. In a small grove on the back of my place at the water front stands a tall fir tree having a few dead branches at the top. These make a convenient perch for Eagles, several of which linger in this vicinity every spring. About noon on March 23rd a fine specimen of the bird of freedom was perched on this tree, his white extremities showing conspicuously in the sunlight. Propelling a wheelbarrow, I had approached to within probably 250 feet of the bird before I happened to look up and notice him, although we had been in perfectly plain view of each other for some time. I loaded my barrow with fire-wood and wheeled it away, then returned for another load. The bird had his back towards me and only occasionally glanced over his shoulder, apparently but little concerned by my presence. A passenger train, coming up a heavy grade with much noisy puffing and sending up huge billows of smoke, passed almost beneath the Eagle, the tree standing not twenty feet from the right of way. The bird observed its passage with perfect complacency. Then I decided to draw a little nearer, and took a course calculated to give a side view of the subject. I pushed the wheelbarrow before me till I was only about 150 feet from the tree. There I stopped and turned my binoculars on him for a minute without his showing the slightest alarm. Then I started to cautiously continue toward him without the vehicle, but as I separated myself from that implement he instantly became alert, spread his wings and soared away. While my activities were noisy and careless of his attention he had no fear of me, but the instant my movements showed evidence of stealth, he trusted me no longer. So far as I have observed, all wild birds and animals are similarly watchful of the conduct shown by man, being unconcerned when he appears to be innocuous, but quick to take alarm when his attention is turned their way.

Another Snow Bunting Record -- With reference to the occurrence of the Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis nivalis*) west of the Cascades, it may be worthy of note that Mr. Alex. Van Wyck, of Bellingham, as he reported to me, met with a flock which he believed to be of this species, about January 1920 on Sumas Prairie, B. C. just over the line from Sumas, Wn. Mr. Van Wyck is an experienced sportsman and nature observer and is familiar with the illustrations of this species. He watched the birds attentively and his description of their appearance and manners fits the Snow Bunting very accurately. I have no doubt the identification was reliable.

March 27, 1921

J. M. Edson.

--*

Tacoma, Wn. -- The usual early spring arrivals seem much later this year than usual. A trip across the prairie region near Tacoma on Feb. 27th failed to reveal a sign of the Streaked Horned Larks, birds that usually appear by February 22nd at the latest. In fact the only spring arrivals that I have seen thus far are the Western Robins, which show the usual marked difference in their habits from the birds that winter here. The latter are usually silent and stay up in the trees most of the time in flocks, feeding on berries of the Mountain Ash, Hawthorne, Madrone, etc.

The new spring arrivals, on the contrary, spend most of their time on the ground feeding on worms and running about with drooping wings, the latter trick being by no means an indication that they are tired, and loudly voicing their regular spring call notes.

J. Hooper-Bowler

At Westport, Wn., on February 14th I noted several female Audubon's Warblers. On the 17th I collected two Hermit Thrushes (sp.?) and a Peale's Falcon. Western Bluebirds were seen on the 18th. There were no shore birds on the beach at this time except Killdeers, Red-backed Sandpipers and Sanderlings.

At Wallula, Walla Walla County, March 6th, I took a Townsend's Solitaire out on the open sage brush. The occurrence is unusual, I think, as this point is low, being only 327 feet above sea level. Two song sparrows taken at Wallula March 7th are of different types; one is a Merrill's and the other a dark, heavily colored bird similar to the coast birds. The Columbia River gap comes through the mountains at this point and no doubt accounts for the presence of many forms of birds and mammals in eastern Washington which ordinarily are found only in Oregon or on the west coast.

An unusual catch at Wallula was five Grasshopper Mice (*Onychomys*). One was caught on March 7th on the top of a wind swept sage brush hill where open sandy spots were frequent. I at once shifted all my small mouse traps to this neighborhood and the following morning had four more. This is one of the rarest species in the state and has been taken previously at Colfax and Coulee City. This species is carnivorous, living on all kinds of insects and worms. One Kangaroo Rat and a Gambel's White-footed Mouse was also taken in this same locality. The last two referred to were taken in bunch grass country among lava rocks. Kangaroo Rats, as far as I am aware, occur in Washington only in the neighborhood of Wallula. Here, about the sand dunes in the sage brush, they are fairly common in widely scattered colonies. They are to be looked for in the pure dry sand where they live in burrows, going to the edge of the weeds and sage brush to feed on any kind of seeds or grain. They hop about at night on the hind feet and their peculiar tracks in the sand, with the mark of the dragging tail, are characteristic indications of the animals' presence.

Geo. G. Cantwell.

--

On March 12th, while on Oyster Bay near Olympia, Washington, large numbers of Scaup Ducks were seen together with less numbers of Golden-eyes and a few each of White-winged and Surf Scoters. An occasional Northwestern Coast Heron was noted on the mud flats while Northwestern Kingfishers were common. Northwestern Crows were common on the water front at Olympia. Glaucous-winged and Western Gulls were the only ones present in numbers. One small flock of Canvas-backs were seen feeding in shallow water along shore.

From March 15th to 25th I was in the eastern part of the state where I found that several of the spring migrants had arrived. At Wenatchee I saw a Western Vesper Sparrow on the 16th. At Kennewick Savannah Sparrows (subsp.?) were singing on the 25th. Magpies, Red-tailed Hawks, Mountain Bluebirds, Ravens and Prairie Falcons were nest building in the Yakima valley about the 18th. John B. Hurley of Yakima told me that he had recently taken a set of Red-tail eggs, five in number. At several points in the Yakima country numbers of Mallards were seen in pairs. Golden-eyes were common on the Yakima River.

At Okanogan two Towhees were seen and one taken, they are evidently Spurred or possibly Arctic. Robins, Red-winged Blackbirds, Meadowlarks, Brewer's Blackbirds, Song Sparrows, Gambel's Sparrows, Juncos, and Crows were common in all the lower country. Among game birds the Hungarian Partridge and Ring-necked Pheasant are the most plentiful. House Finches were noted at Yakima, Prosser, Kennewick and Hoover. One Cassin's Purple Finch was seen at Okanogan. Say's Phoebe were common in most places visited. Several Townsend's Solitaire were seen near Loomis, Okanogan Co., and a lot of American Mergansers were on Palmer Lake in the same region. White-rumped shrikes were becoming common near Richland the later part of the month and Burrowing Owls were much in evidence.

Field Notes by Stanley G. Jevett.

--

Okanagan Landing, B. C. -- J. A. Munro reports that two cedar waxwings were seen in company with Cassin's Finches on Dec. 28, 1920. They were noted several times after this by a friend whose identification could be relied upon. Mr. Munro saw them again on March 29th. This, as far as he knows, is the first record of the species for the Okanagan district.

Elk as Affected by the Great Storm in the Olympic Peninsula.

The following notations are founded on the observations of Mr. Morganroth, than whom no one is better qualified to speak on the conditions in the region affected, for not only has he been deputy supervisor in charge of this district for many years, but prior to that he was a resident of the country that suffered the worst -- the Bogachiel and Hoh valleys. He said that after a more thorough investigation he sees no reason to change his original opinion, but that he never said, as quoted, that four thousand or any other number of elk were killed.

To understand the situation two things must be realized. The great bulk of the elk live on the west side of the Olympics, wintering well down toward the coast. The area affected by the storm is fully thirty miles wide by seventy-five long. While many thousands of single trees, usually the largest in the forest, were blown down, and while strips here and there were leveled, either or both of which might happen in an ordinarily severe storm, there is also a vast tract absolutely leveled. This extends from Forks southward for many miles. In this leveled area the trees are piled up ten to twenty feet high, a mass of trunks and limbs all but impossible to traverse. Within this area there were, Mr. Morganroth estimates, some four thousand elk.

The herds of elk, from a dozen to a hundred in a herd, were naturally not in the immediate vicinity of the trails, where people were occasionally passing. No man dare go out into the middle of this area because he would immediately become lost. Besides, it takes hours to make a mile across these piled up logs and limbs.

Three elk have been found dead. Five were found alive near the trail by settlers. As the elk were starving, they shot them. One elk was seen on the river bottom. An occasional elk will be found in the future, but it will be the exception; the bulk of those killed will never be seen. Doubtless many of them starved. Surviving the storm they found themselves unable to get out. Doubtless there are numbers of elk on the north sides of the small ridges and in other strips of standing timber, but they, too, are penned in and the length of time they can live will depend on the number in the band and the size of the pen to which they are confined.

It has been a fairly open winter. Not all the elk were down along the coast. Those that were wintering a ways up the streams were out of the storm area. The proportion is unknown, but there were four thousand in the entire district, at least.

Mr. Morganroth went over five miles of trail. Knowing the general location he was able to locate the trail here and there and they blazed the way over the logs as located. Part of the trail has already been opened up and the Hoh trail will be ready in a short time. Following that, they will open up the Bogachiel trail. South of the Hoh the work will be slower, but these trails are the main ones in his district.

Along the Elwha, as many trees went down this past winter as during an ordinary five year period. Still it is improbable that any elk were thus killed in this district. The herds seem to be as usual. Grant Humes was in this week and reported seeing four herds on a recent trip to Press Valley. The Boulder Creek elk, about two hundred, which winter within the first ten miles above the Elwha bridge, were not affected.

March 26, 1921. Port Angeles, Wn. Extract of Letter from E. B. Webster.

Following up investigations begun last year of a field Mouse problem in region of Othello and Lind, Adams County, Wn., I spent several days about the middle of February in further studies of this pest. These mice have been reported for two or three seasons past as damaging the grain crops seriously by cutting off the heads near harvest time and by picking up a newly planted seed. In poison and trapping experiments carried on the first week in October last year, about ninety per cent of the mice taken were of the pocket mouse group (Perognathus), the remainder being White-footed mice. Of thirty specimens picked up on the poisoning trial last month - February - none were pocket mice, all belonging apparently to a single species of Peromyscus.

Can the pocket mice be hibernating or living on underground stores? From the observed habits of other species in this group it is probably that the latter assumption is the correct one. The weather was cold and the ground frozen at the time of investigation. It is proposed to follow up these studies as opportunity offers this spring.

An attempt was made last month to try out the new type of special beaver trap secured from the Canadian Park Service, in a series of dams on a stream near Goldendale in Klickitat County, Wn. Conditions at the time were unfavorable for the trial, the weather being rough and the streams swollen from rains and melting snow. Further experiments with these traps will be made when the streams have assumed normal condition. These traps are designed to take the beavers alive and uninjured, so that they can be moved from a locality in which they are troublesome, to National Parks or other places, where their presence will be welcome.

Theo. H. Sheffer.

-----*

Clallam County, Wn.-- A list of birds that are here now or were observed last winter:

Loon - winter resident, common.
 Marbled Murrelet - winter resident, common.
 Pigeon Guillemot - winter resident, scarce.
 California Murre - winter resident, scarce.
 Glaucous-winged Gull - resident, common.
 Bonaparte's Gull - Three seen on Dec. 15, 1920.
 White-crested Cormorant - resident, common.
 Baird's Cormorant - resident, common.
 Northwestern Crow - abundant throughout the year.
 Northwestern Coast Heron - resident, common.
 White-winged Scoter - winter resident, common.
 Surf Scoter - winter resident, common.
 Barrow's Golden-eye - winter resident, common.
 Buffle-head - winter resident, common.
 Merganser - winter resident, common.
 Hooded Merganser - winter resident, common.
 Green-winged Teal - winter resident, scarce.
 Black Turnstone - Three seen Dec. 17, 1920.
 Black Oystercatcher - One seen Feb. 1, 1921.
 Crossbill - Four seen Feb. 6, 1921.
 Northwestern Pileated Woodpecker - rare. One seen Jan. 23, 1921.
 Gairdner's Woodpecker - common resident.
 Western Bluebird - One seen February, 1921.
 Pine Siskin - common resident.
 Oregon Jay (probably rathboni) - common resident.
 Forked-tailed Petrel - One seen Jan. 1, and Feb. 10, 1921.
 Western Golden-crowned Kinglet - common resident.
 Bald Eagle - regular visitor.
 Sharp-shinned Hawk - visitor.
 Western Winter Wren - common resident.
 Rusty Song Sparrow - common resident.
 Oregon Towhee - common resident.
 Varied Thrush - common resident.
 Oregon Ruffed Grouse - common resident.
 Northwestern Kingfisher - common resident.
 Western Robin - seen Dec. 15, 1920 and March 8, 1921.

Mammals:-

Rat - common
 White-footed Mouse - common
 Mountain Beaver - common
 Wild Cat - common.
 Coon - common
 Squirrel - common
 Rabbit - common
 Deer - scarce

Carl Lien.